

# New Directions for the Arctic Council

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ARCTIC COUNCIL



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# The Arctic Council

- ◉ Founded 1996
- ◉ Premier high-level diplomatic forum for international cooperation in the Arctic
- ◉ Eight Member States
  - > Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United States
- ◉ Six Permanent Participants
  - > Aleut, Athabaskan, Gwich'in, Inuit, Saami, RAIPON
- ◉ Six working groups, 2 task forces, 1 expert group

# 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council

- Arctic Council meets every 2 years at the level of Foreign Ministers
- This Ministerial marked the end of the Danish and start of the Swedish Chairmanships
- Meeting took place in Nuuk, Greenland
- Sec. Clinton, Sec. Salazar, Senator Murkowski, Lt. Gov. Treadwell on U.S. Delegation



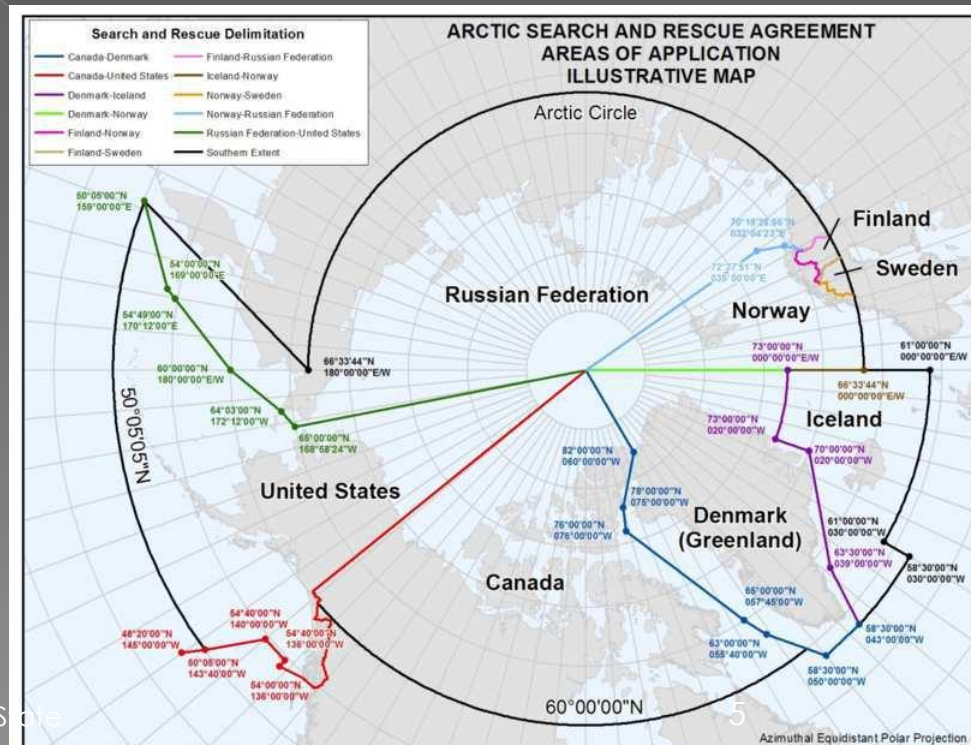
# Institutional Changes

- ◉ Standing Secretariat approved
  - Tromsø, Norway
  - To begin operations spring 2013
  - Enhanced Russian translation
- ◉ Clear criteria for observers
  - Existing observers continue
  - Pending observers to re-apply
    - China, European Commission, Italy, Japan, Rep. of Korea
    - 3 NGOs



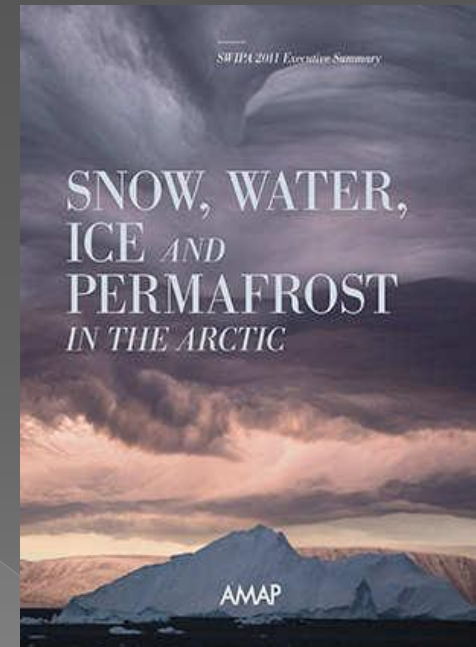
# Search and Rescue

- # ○ Agreement on Cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic
- First legally-binding agreement negotiated under auspices of the Arctic Council
  - U.S.-Russia co-chair
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- Search and Rescue Delimitation
- Canada-Denmark
  - Canada-United States
  - Denmark-Iceland
  - Denmark-Norway
  - Finland-Norway
  - Finland-Sweden
  - Finland-Russian Federation
  - Iceland-Norway
  - Norway-Sweden
  - Norway-Russian Federation
  - Russian Federation-United States
  - Southern Extent
- ARCTIC SEA
- United States
- Russian Federation
- 50°05'00"N 159°00'00"E
- 54°00'00"N 169°00'00"E
- 54°49'00"N 170°12'00"E
- 60°00'00"N 180°00'00"E/W
- 64°03'00"N 172°12'00"W
- 66°33'44"N 180°00'00"E/W
- 69°00'00"N 168°08'24"W
- 50°05'05"N



# SWIPA – The Arctic Council's Cryosphere Assessment

- Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA) released
- <http://www.amap.no/swipa/>
- Big unanswered questions:
  - > What will happen to Arctic Ocean ecosystems as freshwater is added?
  - > How quickly could Greenland Ice Sheet melt?
  - > How will Arctic cryospheric change affect the global climate?
  - > How will changes affect Arctic societies?



# Short-Lived Climate Forcers

- ◉ U.S.-Norway co-led task force
- ◉ Progress Report:  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/164926.pdf>
- ◉ Focused on black carbon
- ◉ Recommended mitigation options:
  - > Transportation, esp. diesel engines
  - > Residential heating
  - > Open burning
  - > Shipping



# Arctic Biodiversity Trends

- Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010
- Full report available at:  
<http://www.caff.is/>
- Key Findings:
  - > Unique Arctic habitats disappearing
  - > Majority of species stable or increasing, but some declining
  - > Long-term observations required
  - > Climate change is most significant stressor, but contaminants, habitat fragmentation, industrial development, and unsustainable harvest levels are having an impact





# Ongoing Work

- ◉ Human Health Experts Group
- ◉ SLCF TF work on black carbon, methane and tropospheric ozone
- ◉ Unmanned Aircraft Systems safety guidelines and a cross-jurisdictional flight pilot project
- ◉ Arctic Biodiversity Assessment due May 2013
- ◉ Health, Safety and Environmental Management and the Use of Best Operating Practices for Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling

# New Initiatives

- Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Task Force
  - > U.S. & Russia co-lead (TBD)
- Enhanced Oil Spill Prevention work
- Ecosystem-Based Management
  - > U.S. co-lead (other country TBD)
- Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks
  - > Arctic Council to chair and IASC to vice-chair
- Arctic Ocean Acidification
- Arctic Human Development Report II
- Food Security and access to good quality water

# Initiatives under Consideration

- ◉ Arctic Change Assessment
  - Comprehensive, cross-cutting synthesis looking at changes affecting Arctic
- ◉ Arctic Resilience Project
- ◉ Arctic Maritime and Aviation Transportation Infrastructure Initiative
- ◉ International Polar Decade

# Toward the next U.S. Chairmanship

- ◉ Sweden 2011-2013
- ◉ Canada 2013-2015
- ◉ United States 2015-2017



